

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for a portal server system for managing a collection of associated portlets responsive to user requests to access a web application, the apparatus comprising:

~~portlet application session means~~ a shared portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests of associated portlets, the portlet application session object accessible by each portlet in a portlet application and configured to allow each portlet in the portlet application to share a common web application session, the portlet application session object stored on a memory and executed by a processor; and

a portlet application communication client linked to said shared portlet application session object ~~means~~ for communicating between said associated portlets and said web application to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application through the common web application session.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application communication client stores user session information.
3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said associated portlets have portlet request parameter maps for storing data and instructions from user requests to said portlets.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the portlet application is adapted to operate on said portal server system for managing said collection of associated portlets.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application communication client has access to a user session information store for storing user session information.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application communication client includes a user session information store for storing user session information.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said user session information includes user session information for mapping said user session information to a corresponding session of said web application.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said user session information is selected from the set comprising: user id, user credentials, language preferences, session timeout information, session id, for mapping said user session information to a corresponding session of said web application.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application communication client has a request buffer for storing requests from said associated portlets to enable said communication client to provide data and instructions for said web application.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said communication client has a request buffer for storing requests from said portlet request parameter maps of said associated portlets to enable said communication client to provide data and instructions for said web application.
12. (Currently Amended) A portlet application for managing a collection of associated portlets in a portal, for operating on a server providing access to a web application by a user;  
said associated portlets having portlet request parameter maps storing data and instructions from user requests to said portlets;  
a shared portlet application session object for said user for said associated portlets,  
the shared portlet application session object accessible by each portlet in a portlet application and configured to allow each portlet in the portlet application to share a common web application session, the shared portlet application session object stored on a memory and executed by a processor;  
a shared portlet application session data store controlled by said shared portlet application session object, the shared portlet application session data store

configured to store request parameters from incoming user requests to each portlet in the portlet application;

a portlet application communication client linked to said shared portlet application data store for communicating between said associated portlets and said web application through the common web application session to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application; and

said communication client having a request buffer for storing requests from portlet request parameter maps of said associated portlets to enable said communication client to provide data and instructions for said web application.

13. (Currently Amended) A portlet application communication client linkable to said shared portlet application session data store of claim 12 for communicating between said associated portlets and said web application to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application;

said portlet application communication client having a user session information store for storing user session information including selected information from the set of the following user session information: user id, user credentials, language preferences, session timeout information, and session

~~id, etc.~~ for mapping said user session information to a corresponding session of said web application;

said session timeout information including session timeout information of said portal server and said web application.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further including synchronization means for said portlet application communication client for matching session timeouts between said portal server and said web application by reauthenticating said user if said web application times out before said portal server.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 further including synchronization means for said portlet application communication client for matching session timeouts between said portal server and said web application by reauthenticating said user from stored information in said user session information store if said web application times out before said portal server.
16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for a portal server adapted to operate a web portal to provide access to a web application; having a portlet application operating on said portal server, for managing a collection of associated portlets; wherein said portlet application includes: means to initiate portlets on requests of a user to access said web application; means to manage a shared portlet application session object for said portlets; and, a shared

portlet application session ~~object~~ data store controlled by said shared portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests for associating said portlets with said with said shared portlet application session object, the apparatus comprising:

a portlet application communication client linked to said shared portlet application session data store for communicating between said associated portlets and said web application to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application through a common web application session shared by each portlet in the portlet application, wherein the shared portlet application session data store is shared by each portlet in a portlet application and is configured to allow each portlet in the portlet application to share session information through the shared portlet application session object, the shared portlet application session object stored on a memory and executed by a processor; and

said portlet application communication client having a user session information store for storing user session information including selected information from the set of the following user session information: user id, user credentials, language preferences, session timeout information, and session id, ~~etc.~~ for mapping said user session information to a corresponding session of said web application.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, claim 9 or claim 16 wherein said session timeout information includes session timeout information of said portal server and said web application.
18. (Currently Amended) A portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets in a portal, for operating on a server providing access to a web application by a user;
- said associated portlets having portlet request parameter maps storing data and instructions from user requests to said portlets;
- a shared portlet application session object for said user for said associated portlets, the shared portlet application session object accessible by each portlet in a portlet application and configured to allow each portlet in the portlet application to share a common web application session, the shared portlet application session object stored on a memory and executed by a processor;
- a shared portlet application session data store controlled by said shared portlet application session object, the shared portlet application session data store configured to allow each portlet in a portlet application to share session information;
- a portlet application communication client linked to said shared portlet application session data store for communicating between said associated portlets and

said web application through the common web application session to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application;

said communication client having a request buffer for storing requests from portlet request parameter maps of said associated portlets to enable said communication client to provide data and instructions for said web application.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 further including synchronization means for said portlet application communication client for matching session timeouts between portal server and said web application by reauthenticating said user if said web application times out before said portal server.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for a portal server system for managing a collection of associated portlets responsive to user requests to access a web application, the method comprising:

using ~~portlet application session means~~ a shared portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests of associated portlets, the shared portlet application session object accessible by each portlet in a portlet application and configured to allow each portlet in the portlet application



to share a common web application session, the shared portlet application session object stored on a memory and executed by a processor; and  
using a portlet application communication client linked to said portlet application session means for communicating between said associated portlets and said web application to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application through the common web application session.

21. (Currently Amended) An article comprising: a computer readable ~~signal bearing~~ storage medium; and computer program code means recorded on said medium adapted to implement the apparatus of any claims 1-19.